

February 21, 2011

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Bayou Lafourche Fresh Water District was held on Monday, February 21, 2011 at 5:00 p.m. at the Water District office, 1016 St. Mary Street, Thibodaux, LA

Present were: Hugh Caffery, Chairman  
Gene Harrell, Vice-Chairman  
Robert Thibodaux, Secretary/Treasurer  
Ron Animashaun  
Donald Arceneaux  
Dr. Darby Chiasson  
Larry Dugas  
Jake Giardina

Absent: None

Also present: Kurt Brodtmann, Michelle Robert, Tom Cancienne, Alice Abney, CH2MHill  
Shannon Haynes, Ryan Hearn, Robert Routon, OCPR  
Jimmy Ledet, T. Baker Smith; Stevie Smith, All South Consulting Engineers  
Kent Schexnayder, Ascension Parish Councilman; Robert Mire; Nick Porto  
Archie Chaisson, III, Picciola & Associates, Inc.; Stacie Sagona  
Kerry St. Pe', Alma Robichaux, BTNEP; Jerry Waguespack  
Archie Chaisson, Jr.; Director; Jana Langley, Administrative Coordinator

Kurt Brodtmann, CH2MHill, gave a progress report on the dredge project through 02/16/2011:

- Total Approximate # of Dredged Yardage Removed = 271,236 yd
- Stump Removal - Reaches 1-5 Complete; Relo/Demo – 38 of 40 Planned Structures – 95%
- Substantial dredging in Reach 3 has been completed; Dredging operations continue in Reach 5.
- Dredging near utility crossing in Reach 4 has begun.
- Design of City of Donaldsonville sanitary sewer line relocation has begun. Once completed the contractor will get three competitive bids then perform the work.
- Contractor has mobilized and began to perform “punch list” items identified in Reaches 1 and 2.
- Total percentage complete is 52.6% and this percentage has decreased due to Change Order #2.
- Project schedule has increased by 30 days due to CO#2 negotiations.

Commissioner Robert Thibodaux asked where we are with the sewer line relocation. Mr. Brodtmann stated that he has been working with an engineer out of their Baton Rouge office. The City of Donaldsonville's engineers did not present the design work after they were given ample time to do so, and the project has contracted CH2MHill to provide the design work. Commissioner Thibodaux stated that it has been four months since the sewer line was first discussed. He asked about the permits required. Ms. Robert stated that the 95% design will be complete by March 16<sup>th</sup> and the applications for the permits will be going to the agencies at that time.

Commissioner Thibodaux asked about the legal expenses that are budgeted for the project. Mr. Haynes stated that the attorney general's office is not directly involved with this project. All they do is provide support. OCPR has their legal staff that does work on each individual project.

Mr. Chaisson asked when the contractor will be finished with Reach 4, and Mr. Brodtmann answered by the end of this month. Mr. Brodtmann stated that he could get the worse case figure if the contractor has to pull out of that area and return to do the sewer line relocation.

Chairman Hugh Caffery asked about the concrete mats. Mr. Chaisson stated that they took a boat trip with the sub-contractor, Premier Concrete. Vice-Chairman Gene Harrell advised that it would be a good idea to give an explanation because he found out on the boat trip that it was different from what he ended up leaving the special meeting with.

Mr. Tom Cancienne stated that they took a boat trip last week with the sub-contractor Premiere Concrete, who is the supplier of the articulated concrete blocks. They looked at various areas of slopes along the banks. The subcontractor recommended putting the concrete blocks in all the areas except in areas where they think there might be some slope stabilization. He stated that the concrete blocks need a flat surface. Mr. Cancienne stated that they will key in the concrete blocks and lay it along the bank. Vice-Chairman Gene Harrell stated that they will not use the articulated mat on a bank that is not stable. The subcontractor for Premier Concrete emphasized that the concrete mats are not a bank stabilization product and stated that rip rap should be used. Vice-Chairman Harrell stated that this is different than his concept of the special meeting.

Commissioner Jake Giardina stated that they are talking about cutting a trench to place the concrete mats, and he asked if they have given any consideration to just periodically putting short pilings. They would not have to dig the trench and upset the bank.

Mr. Brodtmann advised that there are some select areas that have been brought to their attention that they are monitoring closely. The contractor has put out surface markers so they could set their GPS periodically to see what kind of settling they are having.

Commissioner Donald Arceneaux asked what the status on the Aucoin residence is. Mr. Brodtmann stated that they met with Mr. Aucoin this morning and introduced the contractor to him. Mr. Aucoin asked for the second week of March. The contractor is lining up with the subcontractor and putting together a solid work plan to present.

Ms. Stacie Sagona asked if they only found just two or three places of erosion. Mr. Brodtmann stated that there are two or three places with the curvature. Ms. Sagona asked about the water runoff behind the hotel. She stated that when they had questions about this project from day one they said the computer took into account the different soil samples that were taken, bank stabilization, and everything was going to be perfect because the computers told them it was going to be okay. When all of this is brought out into the real world there are going to be some situations that will happen. Ms. Sagona stated that this is a perfect example of where citizens who live on the bayou kept saying this is going to happen.

Ms. Michelle Robert and Mr. Cancienne stated that we are not finished yet. Vice-Chairman Harrell stated that there is more erosion in the areas where the banks are steeper. The rock is going to be placed only in selected places, and in areas where there will be no rock placed to stop that it will continue. Vice-Chairman Harrell commented that as soon you open the bayou up for people to begin using it, you will have boats going up and down the bayou. Mr. Chaisson suggested maybe that we get the parish to put a no wake zone in that area.

Mr. Cancienne stated that they don't think they are going to accept anything that looks bad. Ms. Sagona commented that they put the grass to stop some of the erosion but as the grass grows over it will look fine but you won't be able to see the underneath where there is actually runoff and breaking down.

Chairman Caffery stated that we have a design that we are sticking to and we are not changing the slope design. If it turns out the design was improper and the slope should have been gentler it will have to be fixed. Vice-Chairman Harrell stated it will not be the slope that was designed because you can ride up and down the bayou now and see that is not going to happen because some areas the banks are just too steep for them to cut it back. Commissioner Jake Giardina commented that if you have instances like that where the slope is steep then that is the ones that will have to be repaired with matting, rip rap, etc.

Mr. Chaisson asked if we need to put out some type of press release to the Donaldsonville and Assumption newspapers to advise the citizens not to do anything on the banks of the bayou until they have at least talked to the Bayou Lafourche Fresh Water District and got our clearance.

Mr. Chaisson asked Ms. Robert about the state lines paperwork. He stated that he has the paper copy all the way to Larose but the data files that reference it is not included on the CD. Ms. Robert stated that she will see about getting a complete CD to him.

On motion by Commissioner Donald Arceneaux, seconded by Commissioner Robert Thibodaux to dispense with the reading of the minutes, and approve the minutes of January 18, 2011 and February 1, 2011. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Commissioner Dr. Darby Chiasson, seconded by Commissioner Larry Dugas to approve the accounts payable for January. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Chaisson showed a slide presentation of the tree clearing equipment. The distance covered right now is almost one mile on the Hwy. 308 side from the Tiger Street Bridge to Hwy. 3185. They have removed 191 trees. The three man crew ran for 25 days for a total of 750 man hours. It breaks out per tree using FEMA guidelines on equipment rentals to about \$500 per tree. That is just a little bit more than what we had with the Gustav recovery which was about \$435 depending on the size tree but they hauled off their debris instead of leaving it in place.

Chairman Caffery stated that it took us 750 man hours and asked what the average cost of the man hours is. Mr. Chaisson answered roughly \$32,000 and that amounts to \$168 in man hours per tree. Commissioner Giardina asked if we have any idea of how many trees were taken out after hurricane Gustav when the contractor cut the trees and hauled them off. Commissioner Giardina advised that after another month of doing this we should be in a good position to know how our cost compares to getting it done by a contractor. Chairman Caffery stated that we need to figure what fixed cost to assign this operation to in order to understand what our real comparative cost would be doing it ourselves versus a contractor. Chairman Caffery requested that Mr. Chaisson send those numbers to them.

### **BAYOU OPERATIONS**

Crews: Harvesters finished cutting hydrilla in the area south of Labadieville and the machines were moved back to the Thibodaux area.

Equipment Status: Trucks: all operational; Boats: all operational; Harvesters: both operational. Utility Barges: The UB 2 barge went to auction on Saturday 12 Feb. I have not had any word from the Property Assistance Office as to if it sold or not; Misc equip.: operational

Personnel Strength; Present: 6; Annual: None; Sick: None Accident/Incidents: None

Mr. Chaisson advised that he received an estimate from Wetland Equipment on the harvesters design, and would like to get Board approval for up to \$15,000 for the plans and specs design of the harvesters. Wetland Equipment will draft a complete set of drawings to manufacture the new grass harvester which will be a duplicate of current machines with a few modifications.

Commissioner Giardina asked if we have ever done an owner and operating cost analysis, such as insurance, depreciation, maintenance, etc., on the harvesters and Mr. Chaisson answered no. Commissioner Giardina said there may be a more economical way of getting rid of the hydrilla.

Chairman Caffery asked what the quote would be to build the machine, and Mr. Chaisson answered roughly anywhere from \$100,000 to \$150,000 each. Commissioner Giardina asked Mr. Chaisson if anything has been looked at as an alternative to that method. Mr. Chaisson stated that mechanical is the only option we have. Anchor chain works only for the center portion.

Moved by Commissioner Robert Thibodaux, seconded by Vice-Chairman Gene Harrell to have Wetland Equipment Co. draft the plans and specs design of the new harvesters up to \$15,000. Commissioner Giardina advised to make sure we are the owners of the drawings if we pay for the drawings. Motion carried unanimously.

**PUMP STATION REPORT:**

**River Stage** Beginning January: 5.60 Ending Month: 4.73; Current Stage: 6.38

**Pump Operation:** No. Days Siphon: 0; No. Days Pumping: 31

**Station Maintenance:** Vacuum Pump #3 in service, tied in piping to cooling fan. Chipping, priming, and painting on station piping and equipment. General maintenance.

**Personnel Strength:** Annual: 0; Sick: One man 36hrs.; Accident/Incidents: 0

Jana Langley, Administrative Coordinator, reported that we received \$1.6 million so far in ad valorem taxes. She advised that two CD's mature February 23<sup>rd</sup> and will call for rates to reinvest the two CD's, and invest some of the ad valorem money if the rates come up a little. Moved by Commissioner Jake Giardina, seconded by Commissioner Larry Dugas to approve the finance report. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Chaisson stated that they are still waiting on getting together with the District Attorney to discuss the Car Shop.

Mr. Chaisson advised that he met with Clay Breaux with GSE Associates and they are doing an investigative phase for the station bridge at the pump station to see if it can be done. They are working on a rough idea of what it will cost. Mr. Breaux will have a presentation at next month's meeting.

Mr. Chaisson stated that he met with Chairman Caffery and two engineers before the meeting to see where he stands in the pecking order on the project. He asked the Board exactly what they want to know about the project and the general operations of the district. The Board all agreed that Mr. Chaisson send whatever information he feels is necessary to send to the Board regarding the project and the district.

Mr. Kent Schexnayder, Ascension Parish councilman, stated that he would like the Board to know that everyone appreciates that we are trying to do something. He advised that whatever happens down here in a positive way that it has to go through Donaldsonville. He stated that the first meeting he went to at Donaldsonville High School they said we are going to do this and that and we guarantee that because this is so important for all these people and people were guaranteed that if they legally got a bulkhead it would be replaced, if they had a building that was legally put where it was that it would be moved or replaced. They were guaranteed that if they had to take land in order to do things properly they would be compensated. They were guaranteed that the slope of the banks would be adequate where it wouldn't slump off. He stated that they just want that what was said was going to happen. Then a letter was sent out stating that all bets are off and we are going take land if we want to, and are not going to put any bulkheads. Mr. Schexnayder stated that he is getting all the calls. He stated that nobody is communicating to them, and is afraid that if they don't say anything all of a sudden the project will be over, and the money will be gone. They are concerned how this will end up.

Mr. Schexnayder asked if they are going to use the same rules marking the lines when they go down the bayou to do another project. He would love to see them go through Cut Off and Raceland with these same rules and tell those landowners the same thing.

Mr. Schexnayder requested that if someone has some land slumping off in back of their property to please make it right, especially if they had a bulkhead there before. He stated that he strictly gets only the progress of project.

Commissioner Robert Thibodaux thanked Mr. Schexnayder for his concern. He stated that Article 7, Section 14 of the State says that the state does not compensate for land that is on state property.

Chairman Caffery thanked Mr. Schexnayder for coming to the meeting and taking all these comments and criticisms on this project and stepping up as a councilman. Mr. Schexnayder stated that it helps to know that the district has met with landowners and the outcome of that meeting before he gets a call from the landowner. No one has gone house to house since things have been done.

Chairman Caffery stated that he would like to address Mr. Berg's condition with Mr. Schexnayder. Mr. Schexnayder asked if he could meet with somebody on an occasional basis that could let him know who they will meet with. Chairman Caffery asked that Mr. Chaisson meet with Mr. Schexnayder at the contractor's office monthly.

Mr. Archie Chaisson III, Picciola & Associates, stated that he is making his rounds to the various Boards. The parish received some money a few months ago and one of the projects they will be working on is the Dugas Canal project. They don't have a lot of particulars at this time. They are trying to get some feedback from the various Boards on the project.

On motion by Commissioner Jake Giardina, seconded by Commissioner Larry Dugas and unanimously approved the meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

---

Hugh F. Caffery, Chairman

---

Robert Thibodaux, Secretary/Treasurer

